

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00031 011719Z

61

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /145 W

----- 037553

R 011000Z FEB 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0030

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOWI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEWYORK 002

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0031

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDU

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: COURTESY CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00031 011719Z

1. ON FEB. 1, I PAID COURTESY CALL ON SOVIET AMB. NOURITDIN

MOUKHITDINOV AS PART OF MY SERIES OF DIPLOMATIC CALLS. AFTER USUAL PLEASANTRIES WERE EXCHANGED, AMB. ASKED ME HOW I VIEWED CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE SETTLEMENT. I REPLIED THAT IT IS SZPLL TOO EARLY TO TELL BECAUSE SYRIA'S PARTICIPATION IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT OF EGYPT'S. I SAID THAT AT PRESENT TIME PRISONERS LIST IS MAJOR OBSTACLE STANDING IN WAY OF ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT TALKS. I SAID ISRAELIS ARE MAKING ACCESS TO LIST SINE QUA NON BEFORE THEY AGREE TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE. IN THIS REGARD, I NOTED THAT THE GENEVA CONVENTION PROVIDES ISRAEL WITH SOUND BASIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE. SOVIET AMB. REPLIED THAT SYRIA HAS ALSO PUBLICLY ACCEPTED ALL PROTOCOLS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION WHILE ISRAEL HAS NOT. HE CONTINUED THAT THIS MEANS SYRIA IS PREPARED TO HAND OVER PRISONER LIST ONCE ISRAEL ALLOWS SYRIAN VILLAGERS TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES OCCUPIED DURING OCTOBER WAR, BUT WHAT IS ISRAEL PREPARED TO DO? I REPLIED THAT IT IS TRAGIC THAT BOTH SIDES ARE ENGAGED THIS KIND OF BARGAINING WHICH IN TURN ADVERSELY AFFECTS LIVES OF MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE. SOVIET AMB. AGREED. I CONTINUED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR SOVIET UNION AND US TO COOPERATE ON THIS MATTER AND TRY TO PERSUADE BOTH SIDES TO MAKE SOME COMPROMISE. IN NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS KIND, NEITHER SIDE CAN HOPE TO OBTAIN EVERYTHING IT WANTS. I ADDED THAT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SOVIET GOVINMENT IS BEING HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. SOVIET AMB. REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE NOTING THAT MATTER HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP IN MOSCOW AT HIGHEST LEVELS.

2. COMMENT: TALK WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL. SOVIET AMB. APPEARED PLEASED THAT I HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE TO CALL ON HIM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH. WHILE HE DID NOT EXPATiate, IT WOULD APPEAR HIS AFFIRMATION OF SOVIET HELPFULNESS ON RUSSIAN ISSUE WOULD TAND CONFIRM REPORTS IN DAMASCUS SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE SYRIANS TO BE FLEXIBLE ON POW ISSUE.
SCOTES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PEACE TALKS, POW RETURN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC00031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: I
Film Number: n/a
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740263/aaaacgud.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COURTESY CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PINS, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005